

The Honorable Michael K. Powell
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Powell:

I am writing to urge you to support the pending merger of EchoStar and HUGHES, the parent company of DIRECTV. Although I am not a currently a DIRECTV customer, I have been a Echostar customer in the past and I believe the merger will increase video and broadband choices for consumers like me because the combined company will provide increased competition to cable companies.

The combined company will be a much stronger competitor to cable operators by being able to offer me local TV channels via satellite in my market area, which I currently do not receive.

I have returned to cable briefly because of a special service offer I received as a broadband customer. However, I do not intend to stay with cable once this offer ends because of the limited channel offering. To upgrade to digital cable TV will cost me more than satellite TV and still provide many fewer channels.

As stated above, I currently have broadband access to the Internet through my local cable provider. When Excite@Home went out of business, my local provider began offering their own broadband service but speed was cut by more than half while costs immediately increased by 11%. I believe the combination of EchoStar and HUGHES will result in increased competition in the broadband market by providing an affordable high-speed Internet service alternative nationwide via satellite.

I appreciate your consideration of my views.

Sincerely,

Wynn Raymond
6401 Wilton Road
Chesterfield, VA 23832